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That this review has been so exclusively devoted to adverse criticism is due to the hope that in future volumes of this most important series it may prove possible to avoid some of the difficulties which, to the reviewer, appear responsible for these defects. However, this should not blind us to the fact that the work is a distinctly useful one, even though it does not come up to the high expectations aroused in view of the circumstances and auspices under which it was put out.

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The Commonwealth of Nations. An Inquiry into the Nature of Citizenship in the British Empire and into the Mutual Relations of the Several Communities Thereof. Part I. Edited by L. CURTIS. New York: Macmillan, 1916. 8vo, pp. xviii + 722. \$2.50.

The Round Table groups, as they have come to be known informally, were formed in 1910 in various parts of the British Empire for the study of imperial problems. Apparently plentifully supplied with funds, they have carried on considerable propaganda of the Fabian type and have published in connection with their work a quarterly review, the *Round Table*. Mr. Lionel Curtis is the editor of the present study, which is issued as the first part of a comprehensive survey of the "nature of citizenship in the British Empire, and the mutual relations of the several communities thereof." Although expressly accepting entire responsibility for all the views contained therein, Mr. Curtis tells us, however, that the "main work is the work of various brains and pens" and that it was prepared in five instalments, circulated to the groups, and revised in the light of corrections and criticisms sent in. It represents, therefore, more truly than is usually the case, the considered views of the organization from which it emanates.

The imposing volume before us, however, is more of a compilation than a contribution. Over 700 pages in length, it is a skilful exploitation of historical material to enforce the particular Round Table point of view. Among the previous writers who are laid under tribute are Grote (*History of Greece*), Bryce (*Studies in History and Jurisprudence*), Dicey (chap. iv of *The Law of the Constitution* being reproduced complete), Hunter (*A History of British India*), Egerton (*A Short History of British Colonial Policy*), Beer (*The Origins of the British Colonial System, The Old Colonial System*), Keith (*Commercial Relations of England and Scotland 1603-*

1707), Fletcher (*Political Works*), Lecky (*History of England in the Eighteenth Century*, *History of Ireland*), Fisher (*The End of the Irish Parliament*), Cornwall Lewis (*An Essay on the Government of Dependencies*), Marshall (*The Life of Washington*), Page (*Life of General Lee*), and Rhodes (*Lectures on the American Civil War*). Copious use is made of parts of the writings of these authors, especially of those of Beer and Lecky, and partly as a result there is nothing particularly fresh and original.

The aim of the survey is to show the failure of compact as a method of holding communities permanently together. The essence of the contention is that there must be a new creation of sovereignty if the British Empire is to persist:

This, at any rate, can be prophesied with absolute certainty, that the British Empire, as at present established, cannot endure, unless it can realize its character as a commonwealth in time, by extending the burden and control of its supreme functions to every community which it recognizes as fit for responsible government. Unless that is done the self-governing dominions must inevitably follow to the bitter end the path trodden by the first American colonies [p. 703].

The practical implication of this view is a central imperial parliament with power to impose taxes for imperial purposes. The details of the scheme remain to be disclosed, but apparently it does not include the transfer to any central legislature of the ultimate power to modify tariffs.

It is happily a matter not now in dispute between any parties in any part of the empire that each self-governing unit must retain a final and absolute control of its own fiscal system [p. 361].

This is interesting; but, as Richard Jebb points out in his admirable little book on *The Britannic Question*, it is an impracticable divorce. "The main content of foreign policy is economic interests: and the proposed separation can subsist only in a paper constitution" (Jebb, p. 106). Objections of this nature may remain in abeyance, however, until further volumes develop the Round Table groups' actual constructive plan. The real significance of the present study is that it is to be regarded as a counterblast to such writers as Jebb and others who believe in Britannic alliance and conceive the future of Britain to be an alliance between the mother-country and the self-governing dominions. As a polemic with this intention it is most effective, using all the resources of history and politics that it can assemble to deny the stability of such an alliance. Indeed, the completeness with which it collates such material and the

convenient form in which it presents it make the volume a handy treatise on the failure of contract or treaty to insure permanency of political relationships. At this time, too, the subject is of wider interest than its immediate problem; the volume might be read as a sufficient antidote to a good bit of the literature put forth by the League to Enforce Peace.

On the other hand, the study suffers from a failure to look at the history and evolution of the self-governing dominions. The American colonies, Ireland, Scotland, and the United States are treated, but the history of Canada and Australia is almost completely ignored. Jebb's little book, quite apart from its conclusions, is in this respect far more satisfactory—comes to much closer grips with its subject. Burke's argument against the inclusion of overseas representatives in a parliament sitting in Westminster is brushed aside, but there is little of Burke's reasonableness of attitude and unwillingness to force the times. It is possible that the second part of this study may remedy defects of omission, for it is announced that it will be an attempt to see the dominions as they now are.

It is not likely that the tone of the study will change, and this is a more serious matter. While it is restrained, moderate, and fair, the attitude of the superior person called to rule "millions unfit for government" predominates. Undoubtedly the obligations of empire are heavy, and Kipling's "Take up the white man's burden" is not an unworthy sentiment; still it is too often accompanied by the spirit we denominate Prussian to make one exactly care for it. This is the case here. "The common saying that you cannot make people virtuous by law is a dangerous half-truth" (p. 646). The blood-and-iron policy of Bismarck is alluded to with wistful admiration. "The union of Germany . . . was the work of the Prussian dynasty, accomplished by force" (p. 680). "That a people in the forefront of civilization should produce the most powerful autocracy ever seen in the modern world is a singular phenomenon, and centuries of disunion suddenly ended by the master-strokes of the Prussian dynasty furnish the key to it" (p. 683).

Citizenship is conceived of in terms of dedication to "the supreme interests of a common state . . . for all time and all purposes" (p. 204). "To breed such devotion in the men they govern is the ultimate task of statesmen, and it behooves them before all things to know how it is engendered" (p. 319). In the background of these ideas is Treitschke rather than T. H. Green. They go with a temper rather out of style at present—too little in sympathy with the common people. For that reason I believe that the final solution of the problems facing Great

Britain and her great self-governing dominions will fall to statesmen standing for a different order of ideas.

Excellent maps, diagrams, and tables are provided.

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Social Adaptation: A Study in the Development of the Doctrine of Adaptation as a Theory of Social Progress. By LUCIUS MOODY BRISTOL. (Harvard Economic Studies, XIV.) Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1915. 8vo, pp. xii+356. \$2.00.

This study is an attempt to use the history of sociology in the nineteenth century in illustration of the category of adaptation as the cause and measure of social progress. The writer divides adaptation into four aspects. The first is passive physical adaptation or the notion of biological evolution. Under this head he discusses the work of Lamarck, Darwin, Weismann, de Vries, and Mendel. Under the same aspect he discusses also the neo-Darwinian sociologists: Nietzsche, Kidd, Galton, Pearson, and Lapouge, as well as the Environmental school: Marx, Buckle, Ratzel-Semple, and Ripley.

The second aspect of adaptation is the passive spiritual involving the evolution of psychic and social factors, the process of education, and the idea of genetic social control. Under this aspect he discusses the development of the concept of society as an organism by Schaeffle (Spencer having been discussed in an earlier chapter under the title of "Cosmic Evolution"), Mackenzie, Le Bon, Durkheim, and others; the anthropological sociologists: Sumner, Boas, Hobhouse, Westermatch, and Thomas; the historical sociologists: Gumplowicz, Ratzenhoffer, and Bagehot; sociologists emphasizing one all-important formula or principle: Adam Smith, Tarde, Baldwin, Drummond, and Giddings.

The third and fourth aspects are active material and active spiritual adaptation. Under the former are included Ward, Patten, and Carver; under the latter, Novicow, Carlyle, James, and Ross. Comte, Quetelet, Lilienfeld, and De Greef are discussed in an introductory section as establishing the method and the limits, so far attained, of sociology.

Mr. Bristol's speculations have their point of departure in Professor Carver's economic nationalism. According to this proposition, that group will be fit to survive, and will survive, which succeeds in controlling its environment better than any other group, is better organized than any other, and knows of no other standards of morality except group